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\*Practice Limited to  
Federal Agencies

May 18, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Art Unit 3747**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 10/733,271; Filed: December 12, 2003  
For: **Multi-Stage Multi-Plane Combustion Method for a Gas Turbine Engine**  
Inventors: Willis *et al.*  
Our Ref: 2066.0040005

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. A listing of 128 cited documents;
3. Copies of three (3) cited documents (AL1, AM1, and AR1); and
4. One Return Postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents

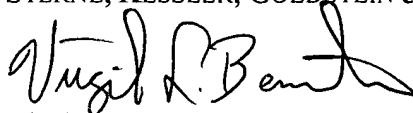
May 18, 2004

Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Virgil L. Beaton  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 47,415

VLB/mhd

262996



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Willis *et al.*

Appl. No.: 10/733,271

Filed: December 12, 2003

For: **Multi-Stage Multi-Plane  
Combustion Method for a Gas  
Turbine Engine**

Confirmation No.: 8656

Art Unit: 3747

Examiner: *To Be Assigned*

Atty. Docket: 2066.0040005

**Information Disclosure Statement**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent

application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☐ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- ☒ 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- ☐ 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
  - ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first

cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

☐ c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

☐ 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition: . .

☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

- ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☒ 7. Copies of the foreign patent documents and other documents are submitted herewith.
- ☒ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. 10/171,684, filed June 17, 2002, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

- ☒ 9. No copies of U.S. patents and patent application publications cited on the attached Form PTO-1449 are submitted in accordance with 1276 OG 55 because this application was filed after June 30, 2003.
- ☒ 10. It is expected that the examiner will review the prosecution and cited art in the parent application nos. 10/171,684, and 09/512,986 in accordance with MPEP 2001.06(b), and indicate in the next communication from the office that the art cited in the earlier prosecution history has been reviewed in connection with the present application.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

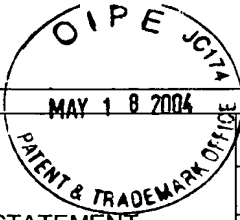


Virgil L. Beaston  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 47,415

Date: 5/18/2004

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Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600





FORM PTO-1449

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO.  
2066.0040005APPLICATION NO.  
10/733,271FIRST NAMED INVENTOR  
Jeffrey W. WillisFILING DATE  
December 12, 2003ART UNIT  
3747

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA1	6,453,658	09/2002	Willis <i>et al.</i>			
	AB1	6,684,642	02/2004	Willis <i>et al.</i>			
	AC1	1,698,963	01/1929	Oslund <i>et al.</i>			
	AD1	1,826,776	10/1931	Gunther			
	AE1	1,874,970	08/1932	Hall			
	AF1	2,593,849	04/1952	Clarke <i>et al.</i>			
	AG1	2,829,494	04/1958	Christensen			
	AH1	2,946,185	07/1960	Bayer			
	AI1	2,982,099	05/1961	Carlisle <i>et al.</i>			
	AJ1	3,658,691	04/1972	Keith <i>et al.</i>			
	AK1	3,676,328	07/1972	Dalson <i>et al.</i>			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL1	0 445 652 Z1	09/1991	EP			Yes No
	AM1	2239056	06/1991	GB			Yes No
	AN1						Yes No
	AO1						Yes No
	AP1						Yes No

## OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR	1	Gessaman <i>et al.</i> , Industrial Trent Dry Low Emissions Gas Fuel Control System, ASME, 2001-GT-0024, pp. 1-5, (Presented at the International Gas Turbine & Aeroengine Congress & Exhibition, New Orleans, LA, June 4-7, 2001).
	AS	1	
	AT	1	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

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3747**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA2	3,676,329	07/1972	Dalson <i>et al.</i>			
	AB2	3,691,762	09/1972	Ryberg, <i>et al.</i>			
	AC2	3,765,171	10/1973	Hagen <i>et al.</i>			
	AD2	3,797,231	03/1974	McLean			
	AE2	3,846,979	11/1974	Pfefferle			
	AF2	3,866,413	02/1975	Sturgess			
	AG2	3,875,047	04/1975	Dalson <i>et al.</i>			
	AH2	3,893,297	07/1975	Tatem, Jr. <i>et al.</i>			
	AI2	3,895,488	07/1975	Koch			
	AJ2	3,914,090	10/1975	Pfefferle			
	AK2	3,923,011	12/1975	Pfefferle			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL2						Yes No
	AM2						Yes No
	AN2						Yes No
	AO2						Yes No
	AP2						Yes No

**OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

	AR	2	
	AS	2	
	AT	2	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

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FORM PTO-1449  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 2066.0040005	APPLICATION NO. 10/733,271
	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Jeffrey W. Willis	
	FILING DATE December 12, 2003	ART UNIT 3747

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA3	3,928,961	12/1975	Pfefferle			
	AB3	3,940,923	03/1976	Pfefferle			
	AC3	3,973,390	08/1976	Jeroszko			
	AD3	3,975,900	08/1976	Pfefferle			
	AE3	3,982,879	09/1976	Pfefferle			
	AF3	4,007,002	02/1977	Schirmer			
	AG3	4,011,839	03/1977	Pfefferle			
	AH3	4,019,316	04/1977	Pfefferle			
	AI3	4,040,252	08/1977	Mosier <i>et al.</i>			
	AJ3	4,044,553	08/1977	Vaught			
	AK3	4,065,917	01/1978	Pfefferle			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL2						Yes No
	AM3						Yes No
	AN3						Yes No
	AO3						Yes No
	AP3						Yes No

## OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR	<u>3</u>	
	AS	<u>3</u>	
	AT	<u>3</u>	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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3747**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA4	4,073,716	02/1978	Pfefferle <i>et al.</i>			
	AB4	4,094,142	06/1978	Pfefferle			
	AC4	4,112,675	09/1978	Pillsbury <i>et al.</i>			
	AD4	4,118,171	10/1978	Flanagan <i>et al.</i>			
	AE4	4,179,881	12/1979	Faucher <i>et al.</i>			
	AF4	4,192,139	03/1980	Buchheim			
	AG4	4,239,499	12/1980	Pfefferle			
	AH4	4,276,203	06/1981	Pfefferle			
	AI4	4,285,193	08/1981	Shaw <i>et al.</i>			
	AJ4	4,287,090	09/1981	Pfefferle			
	AK4	4,295,818	10/1981	Angwin <i>et al.</i>			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL4						Yes No
	AM4						Yes No
	AN4						Yes No
	AO4						Yes No
	AP4						Yes No

**OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

	AR	<u>4</u>	
	AS	<u>4</u>	
	AT	<u>4</u>	

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EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA5	4,337,028	06/1982	Angwin <i>et al.</i>			
	AB5	4,341,662	07/1982	Pfefferle			
	AC5	4,384,843	05/1983	Pfefferle			
	AD5	4,402,662	09/1983	Pfefferle			
	AE5	4,407,785	10/1983	Pfefferle			
	AF5	4,433,540	02/1984	Cornelius <i>et al.</i>			
	AG5	4,439,136	03/1984	Pfefferle			
	AH5	4,470,262	09/1984	Shekleton			
	AI5	4,509,333	04/1985	Nussdorfer <i>et al.</i>			
	AJ5	4,586,328	05/1986	Howald			
	AK5	4,603,547	08/1986	Pfefferle <i>et al.</i>			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL5						Yes No
	AM5						Yes No
	AN5						Yes No
	AO5						Yes No
	AP5						Yes No

**OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

	AR	<u>5</u>	
	AS	<u>5</u>	
	AT	<u>5</u>	

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EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA6	4,638,636	01/1987	Cohen			
	AB6	4,646,707	03/1987	Pfefferle			
	AC6	4,698,963	10/1987	Taylor			
	AD6	4,726,181	02/1988	Pillsbury			
	AE6	4,735,052	04/1988	Maeda <i>et al.</i>			
	AF6	4,773,368	09/1988	Pfefferle			
	AG6	4,787,208	11/1988	DeCorso			
	AH6	4,811,707	03/1989	Pfefferle			
	AI6	4,819,595	04/1989	Pfefferle			
	AJ6	4,864,811	09/1989	Pfefferle			
	AK6	4,891,936	01/1990	Shekleton <i>et al.</i>			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL6						Yes No
	AM6						Yes No
	AN6						Yes No
	AO6						Yes No
	AP6						Yes No

**OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

	AR	<u>6</u>	
	AS	<u>6</u>	
	AT	<u>6</u>	

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EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA7	4,896,636	01/1990	Pfefferle			
	AB7	4,905,658	03/1990	Pfefferle			
	AC7	4,910,957	03/1990	Moreno <i>et al.</i>			
	AD7	4,918,915	04/1990	Pfefferle			
	AE7	4,928,479	05/1990	Shekleton <i>et al.</i>			
	AF7	4,928,481	05/1990	Joshi <i>et al.</i>			
	AG7	4,982,570	01/1991	Waslo <i>et al.</i>			
	AH7	4,996,838	03/1991	Melconian			
	AI7	5,000,004	03/1991	Yamanaka <i>et al.</i>			
	AJ7	5,025,622	06/1991	Melconian			
	AK7	5,051,241	09/1991	Pfefferle			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL7						Yes No
	AM7						Yes No
	AN7						Yes No
	AO7						Yes No
	AP7						Yes No

**OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

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3747**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA8	5,054,280	10/1991	Ishibashi <i>et al.</i>			
	AB8	5,063,745	11/1991	Shekleton <i>et al.</i>			
	AC8	5,070,700	12/1991	Mowill			
	AD8	5,076,053	12/1991	McVey <i>et al.</i>			
	AE8	5,079,911	01/1992	Kumakura			
	AF8	5,099,644	03/1992	Sable <i>et al.</i>			
	AG8	5,101,620	04/1992	Shekleton <i>et al.</i>			
	AH8	5,113,647	05/1992	Shekleton			
	AI8	5,127,221	07/1992	Beebe			
	AJ8	5,146,881	09/1992	Pfefferle			
	AK8	5,156,002	10/1992	Mowill			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL8						Yes No
	AM8						Yes No
	AN8						Yes No
	AO8						Yes No
	AP8						Yes No

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EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA9	5,161,366	11/1992	Beebe			
	AB9	5,163,284	11/1992	Shekleton			
	AC9	5,167,122	12/1992	Shekleton			
	AD9	5,199,265	04/1993	Borkowicz			
	AE9	5,205,117	04/1993	Shekleton <i>et al.</i>			
	AF9	5,207,064	05/1993	Ciokajlo <i>et al.</i>			
	AG9	5,214,911	06/1993	Shekleton			
	AH9	5,222,357	06/1993	Eddy <i>et al.</i>			
	AI9	5,234,882	08/1993	Pfefferle			
	AJ9	5,235,813	08/1993	McVey <i>et al.</i>			
	AK9	5,235,814	08/1993	Leonard			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL9						Yes No
	AM9						Yes No
	AN9						Yes No
	AO9						Yes No
	AP9						Yes No

**OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

	AR	<u>9</u>	
	AS	<u>9</u>	
	AT	<u>9</u>	

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**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 2066.0040005	APPLICATION NO. 10/733,271
	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Jeffrey W. Willis	
	FILING DATE December 12, 2003	ART UNIT 3747

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA10	5,261,224	11/1993	Shekleton <i>et al.</i>			
	AB10	5,321,049	06/1994	Smith <i>et al.</i>			
	AC10	5,331,814	07/1994	Sandelis			
	AD10	5,342,591	08/1994	Pfefferle			
	AE10	5,376,345	12/1994	Pfefferle			
	AF10	5,412,938	05/1995	Keller			
	AG10	5,417,933	05/1995	Pfefferle			
	AH10	RE34,962	06/1995	Shekleton <i>et al.</i>			
	AI10	5,421,154	06/1995	Pfefferle <i>et al.</i>			
	AJ10	5,437,152	08/1995	Pfefferle			
	AK10	5,440,872	09/1995	Pfefferle			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL10						Yes No
	AM10						Yes No
	AN10						Yes No
	AO10						Yes No
	AP10						Yes No

## OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

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	AS	<u>100</u>	
	AT	<u>100</u>	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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December 12, 2003ART UNIT  
3747**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA11	5,452,574	09/1995	Cowell <i>et al.</i>			
	AB11	5,453,003	09/1995	Pfefferle			
	AC11	5,466,651	11/1995	Pfefferle			
	AD11	5,479,781	01/1996	Fric <i>et al.</i>			
	AE11	5,592,819	01/1997	Ansart <i>et al.</i>			
	AF11	5,611,684	03/1997	Spielman			
	AG11	5,622,054	04/1997	Tingle			
	AH11	5,685,156	11/1997	Willis <i>et al.</i>			
	AI11	5,735,126	04/1998	Schulte-Werning			
	AJ11	5,752,380	05/1998	Bosley <i>et al.</i>			
	AK11	5,850,732	12/1998	Willis <i>et al.</i>			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL11						Yes No
	AM11						Yes No
	AN11						Yes No
	AO11						Yes No
	AP11						Yes No

**OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

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	AS	<u>11</u>	
	AT	<u>11</u>	

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3747**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA12	5,894,720	04/1999	Willis <i>et al.</i>			
	AB12	6,016,658	01/2000	Willis <i>et al.</i>			
	AC12	6,274,945	08/2001	Gilbreth <i>et al.</i>			
	AD12	6,487,096	11/2002	Gilbreth <i>et al.</i>			
	AE12						
	AF12						
	AG12						
	AH12						
	AI12						
	AJ12						
	AK12						

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL12						Yes No
	AM12						Yes No
	AN12						Yes No
	AO12						Yes No
	AP12						Yes No

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	AR	<u>12</u>	
	AS	<u>12</u>	
	AT	<u>12</u>	

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